

RENTAL HOUSING MEDIATION TASK FORCE
MINUTES

September 3, 2009
630 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, California, 93101
7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:

JOSHUA ALLEN	<u>E</u>	TRUDY PAUL	<u>X</u>
LEESA BECK	<u>E</u>	MARSHALL SHERRILL	<u>E</u>
BENJAMIN BUSH	<u>X</u>	BARBARA SMITH SHERRILL	<u>E</u>
SILVIO DILORETO	<u>X</u>	ROGER SIMPSON	<u>X</u>
JUSTIN DULLUM	<u>X</u>	SKIP SZYMANSKI	<u>X</u>
LYNN GOEBEL	<u>X</u>	SCOTT WEXLER	<u>X</u>
DANIEL HERLINGER	<u>X</u>	BRUCE WOLLENBERG	<u>X</u>

X = Present A = Absent E = Excused

Officers: Ben Bush Chair, Barbara Smith Sherrill Chair and Leesa Beck Secretary
Staff Present: Andrea Bifano, Sr. Rental Housing Mediation Specialist

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Rental Housing Mediation Task Force (RHMTF) was conducted in compliance with the standards set by the Americans with Disability Act. The meeting was attended by three members of the public, who ere present to observe the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Silvio Di Loreto made a motion to approve the Minutes of the July 1, 2009 meeting. Dan Herlinger seconded the motion and it passed. The August 5, 2009 meeting was cancelled.

4. CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO THE RHMTF:

On June 30, 2009, Joshua Allen, Lynn Goebel, Trudy Paul, and Roger Simpson were appointed to the RHMTF. Roger Simpson, who was not able to attend the July 1, 2009 RHMTF meeting, was welcomed and introduced.

5. RHMTF MEETINGS:

Ben Bush, Chair asked the board members for feedback regarding the change in the RHMTF meeting date and time. Discussion followed. The consensus was that the change was very satisfactory.

6. RHMTF BY-LAWS:

Ben Bush, Chair shared that the subcommittee comprised of (Barbara Smith Sherrill, Vice Chair, Leesa Beck Secretary, Silvio Di Loreto Founding Father, Bruce Wollenberg Veteran mediator, himself and Andrea Bifano) had met twice so far, and would need to meet further to finalize their recommendations to the by-laws, which would be presented at a later meeting.

7. FY 2009-2010 PROGRAM FUNDING:

Andrea Bifano reported that during the month of August, the RHMTF applied for, and was awarded, two Homeless Prevention grants. The money from the grants will be paid from the Federal Government, U.S. Housing and Urban Department (HUD).

One grant was offered through the Santa Barbara County Housing and Community Development Department. Andrea shared that the RHMTF applied, as a collaborative, with the Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County. The name of the collaborative, South Santa Barbara County Homeless Prevention Project (SSBCHPP). Ellen Goodstein, Executive Director of the Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County, attended the RHMTF meeting, and spoke of the new collaboration.

The second grant was part of a larger collaboration. The Lead Agency in the Collaborative, was named as the City of Santa Barbara. Partner agencies were: Casa Esperanza, Catholic Charities, and Transition House. Staff shared that legal services would be offered through the Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County. Mediation services would be offered through the RHMTF. Both applications were available for review.

8. OUTREACH/PROCLAMATION:

Outreach: A proposed outreach to be held on September 23, 2009, Club Day, at Santa Barbara City College was discussed. Justin Dullum volunteered to assist staff at the outreach.

Proclamation: Due to the numerous requests for Proclamations in the City of Santa Barbara, the request for a Proclamation for Conflict Resolution Day was denied. Staff was encouraged to attend the Public Comment portion of a City of Santa Barbara Council Meeting in October, and speak publicly on the subject of conflict resolution, for public awareness.

9. CASELOAD REPORT AND MEDIATION TRAINING:

A. The statistics were distributed for the months of July and August 2009;

B. Mediation Training: Andrea Bifano provided interactive 30 minute training on Active Listening, in compliance with the Dispute Resolution Programs Act Guidelines.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Staff announced that on August 6, 2009, Andrea Bifano, Sue Gray, Community Development Programs Supervisor, Skip Szymanski, and Robert Fredericks, Deputy Executive Director/CAO, Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara, met to discuss the possibility of using the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara's non-profit, *Second Story*, as a "pass through" for donations to the RHMTF. An up-date will be provided at the next meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm